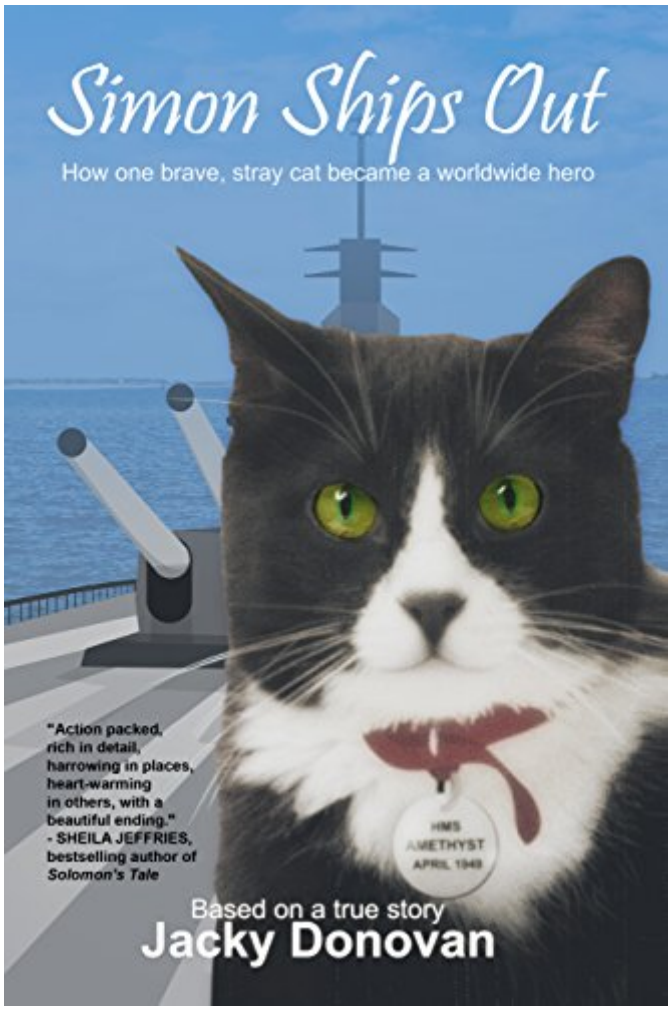
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Simon Ships Out. How One Brave, Stray Cat Became A Worldwide Hero: Based On A True Story (Animal Heroes Book 1)



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Synopsis

THE #1 BESTSELLER IN TRAVEL, ANIMAL AND CAT BOOKS *Simon Ships Out is also available as an audio recording and in TWO versions for children, entitled Seacat Simon, making this unique tale an inspirational read for all the family* When Simon, an orphaned young cat, is smuggled on board HMS Amethyst, his simple life amidst the streets of Hong Kong is transformed into an adventure fit for heroes. Bringing joy and compassion to those on board, Simon is the only cat to have been awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal, the highest honour for animal gallantry in wartime. Based on the true events of AmethystÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Ã¢â ¬ËœYangtze IncidentÃ¢â ¬â„¢, Able Seacat Simon's quirky yet emotional catÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eye narrative is sure to move and entertain all who read it. Able Seacat Simon's tale is a purrfect read for fans of "A Street Cat Named Bob", "Solomon's Tale", and "Alfie the Doorstep Cat". EDITORIAL REVIEWS "Action packed read, rich in detail, harrowing in places, heart-warming in others, and with a beautiful ending." Ã¢â ¬â •Sheila Jeffries, author of bestseller 'Solomon's Tale'. "A real pleasure for a cat lover." Ã¢â ¬â •Celia Haddon, author of bestseller 'Tilly, the ugliest cat' and numerous animal books.
Ã¢â ¬Å“Well-paced, filled with information, humour and lots of drama. A definite page turner that will appeal to a wide age range of readers interested in animal adventure books, with a bit of a twist. One thingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s for sure though, if you read this book Ã¢â ¬â œ youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll need some tissues handy.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Beth Haslam, author of "Fat Dogs and French Estates" series "An extraordinary reimagining." Ã¢â ¬â •Cat World Magazine. "A truly wonderful book for all ages and another feather in the colorful hat of Jacky Donovan. Highly recommended." Ã¢â ¬â •Grady Harp, Vine Voice / Top 100 reviewer. "A true celebrity cat - a stray who helped save the crew of a warship and whose story captured the hearts of a nation." Ã¢â ¬â •Sunday People. "Delightful new novel." Ã¢â ¬â •Sunday Express. "His quirky narrative should entertain and delight anyone who loves cats." Ã¢â ¬â •Portsmouth Local. "Such a sweet tale." Ã¢â ¬â •Newcastle Chronicle. "Wonderful to see Jacky's book bringing the story to life." Ã¢â ¬â •Local London.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An amazing story of an accidentally adventurous cat. No longer resigned to only hearing about the adventures of his fellow cats, Simon is smuggled aboard an ocean going ship by a lonely sailor and his new life begins when he meets the ship's dog and they become friends. Exploring the ship is an adventure in itself and he soon adapts to a sailors' life; however when they are shelled by communists and are stranded, life becomes terrifying. But Simon rises to the occasion and becomes the inspiration for the wounded and battling sailors to the point of becoming their hero.Well written, the author's manner of speaking through Simon is captivating and believable and Simon becomes my hero too. Do yourself a favor and delve into Simon's adventures.

I have never had a story about a cat grip me the way this book did. Simon, the cat, comes alive. By the end of the book I was completely in love with Simon, the brave cat. . After having been surrounded on shipboard by loving friends, both humans and animal, he had a cold and lonely death. I wept for all Simon had been through. If you are a cat lover, this is a must read. Jacky Donovan please write more books.

The little cat's story begins while sitting outside at the harbor on Hong Kong's Stonecutters Island, near fishermen who sometimes give it a little fish, in a harbor filled with giant ships. It's also telling of other cats (eg. JoJo, Uboat, Chairman) in the area, exchanging stories with each other - except for Chairman. Chairman is very territorial and gets angry at trespassers. The others are international travelers. And then something grabs his tail - it's a human (George) with warm hands, and he's soon

carrying the little cat onto a ship, or rather sneaking the little cat on board. And soon afterwards, the little cat has a name - 'Simon.'George soon is asleep, snoring along with other humans nearby, and a bit later a furry dog (Peggy) appears - she's a regular on the ship and not like the mean dogs on shore that bark and chase cats. Simon then follows Peggy for a tour of the HMS Amethyst, a destroyer that had made it through WWII.Peggy's friendship with Simon quickly convinces the Captain that Simon should be treated well, and the danger of being thrown overboard as an unwanted stowaway passes. He's then assigned the duty of 'rat catcher' and given the rank of Ordinary Seaman. And then everyone prepares for patrol duty to protect British interests around the Straits of Malaysia.Simon quickly ingratiates himself with the crew, particularly through his skill at catching and killing rats. There was no doubt what was happening - Simon would often leave presents of dead rats in sailors' beds and sleep in the captain's cap.Official orders than mandated that the Amethyst travel up the Yangtze River to Nanjing. Once there, Communist guns opened fire, with one round landing in the captain's cabin - killing the captain and seriously wounding Simon. Simon's burns and four pieces of shrapnel made his recovery unlikely, but with help from the surviving medical staff he did survive. Meanwhile, the ship had again become overrun with rats while anchored in the river. Simon was soon back to work.Simon also became a celebrity, lauded in world news, presented with the 'Animal Victoria Cross,' the 'Dickin Medal,' and promoted to 'Able Seacat.' Thousands of letters were sent to him, and he was presented with additional honors at every port.

It hasn't been that long ago that I got a phone call while I was at my writers' meeting that my Panda, a beautiful tuxedo cat, had passed away while playing with his cat mate. Must have been a heart attack, we had decided, but we miss him lots. So when I saw the cover of this book with a near twin to Panda, I had to pick it up. It didn't hurt that it was free. (Now it is $3.99)What a great way to teach a historical event, through the eyes of the cat, and sometimes the dog. These two pets are on a ship that is in the war. This is not from an American point of view but rather from the British side. That is a part of history not taught in our US schools so this is a cool way to teach about ship and the war and how it might have felt to be a cat with bombs and guns going off. Poor little creatures can't understand yet they do their best for the nice people who take care of them.Often I found the narrative from the cat's mind seemed either too smart or not smart enough. In other words, in my life with cats this point of view often didn't ring true. But then again, who knows what those furry friends think anyway? It's worth the read, and I think sailors would love it even more.

I really can’t say WHY I chose this story, I guess it was the same curiosity that made me read "Hitty, her first 100 years" as a child: (this was the ’life story’s of a doll).Simon (as voiced by the writer) relates occurrencs as if Simon would and how could you understand human life when you are a cat? The author is able to phrase events as if he was Simon. Death is being ’gone’ having ’stopped’: a cat’s philosophy and very touching. It relates the cares and concerns of daily life in unsettled times and locations. The dialogue speaks with the innocence of a cat and his best friends, one of whom lived with him on a ship caught in wartime China. Peggy was a dog and they were mascots as well as valuable vermin exterminators. They experience life as sometimes unexplained actions and mysteries, that they try to explain based on their reality. I wished the voyage and victories would have extended longer: it is a true story, and truth prevails when heart will not.

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